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Washington DC 20001
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D.C. OFFICE OF ZONING
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Mr. Anthony J. Hood, Chairperson
DC Zoning Commission
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Zoning Case ZC 10-14—Big Bear Café
Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accessibility

Dear Mr. Hood and Zoning Commissioners,

There's been a lot of talk in the Bloomingdale neighborhood about this Big Bear Café. While I understand they want to expand, the reality is that this public place is currently totally inaccessible to wheelchair users.

There are no entrances into the café that are ramped; in fact both entrances have steps. My son is a wheelchair user and he's wanted to go in and sit there and enjoy the coffee and meal food like everyone else but can't get it in. Isn't this a violation of the ADA?

If there is going to be any further expansion, Big Bear Care should be made wheelchair accessible, including in the bathroom if available to other members of the public.

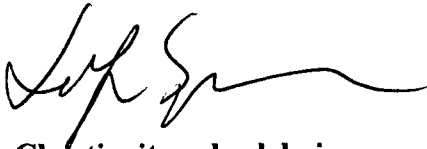
This is particularly so as the owner of this enterprise seems to allow public meetings to be held there. That is, meetings where the general public are invited for purposes other than eating and drinking, such as the proposed McMillan park development and other community discussion meetings. Such meetings should not be held in spaces that are not inclusive to all users.

In fact, we are pretty sick of restaurants that open in this city that are not wheelchair accessible and we don't know how and why you (or DCRA) permits this to happen. ADA has been in place since 1990. Why are DC rules and regulations for zoning, development and related licensing not reflective of this, so that anyone, even wheelchair users, can get into these new or upgraded establishments?

If this Café is to expand, it should be wheelchair accessible and otherwise comport with any regulations that provide for access for everyone. Anything less than this is DISCRIMINATION to all the people with disabilities, including elderly people who use canes and walkers, in the neighborhood and who come to the café from other places in town.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Simpson
Parent of Joshua Chartienitz, wheelchair user
Taxpayers
Voters



ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-17
EXHIBIT NO. 48
ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 10-14
EXHIBIT NO. 48